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An ABSTRACT of REASONS for encouraging the *Linen Manufactory.*

IT is the Interest of every State to encourage its own Manufactures, as thereby it finds Employment for its Inhabitants, and is enabled to increase its Revenue, by exporting the Surplus of its own Consumption.

II. The infinite Demand there is for Linen, the Excellence of the British Materials for making it, and the high Improvement to which it may and has been brought in this Country, point out the Linen Manufactory as one of the most distinguishing and deserving Objects of national Attention; notwithstanding which, it has received no Encouragement in Proportion to its Utility.

III. The chief Causes of its Decline are the Importation of Linen Goods, and the Want of a sufficient Quantity of Hemp and Flax of our own Growth, which for making of most Sorts of Linen, as well as Cordage, are the best in Europe.

IV. The Importation of raw Materials would be unnecessary to a Country which is capable of producing them itself, without injuring its Corn and Pasture Lands; but Cloth wholly manufactured should never be suffered, as it deprives our Poor of so much Labour.

V. Our Trade with Russia carries a great deal of Money out of the Kingdom, and subjects our Navy to their Mercy in the important Articles of Cordage and Canvas; and the immense Quantity of Linen imported from Germany, Holland, Poland, &c. paying but small Duties, must be an unspeakable Discouragement to all our Linen Manufacturers in this Kingdom.

VI. Hemp and Flax are suited to the Soil of these Kingdoms: Hemp destroys all Weeds, prepares the Ground for Flax, after which Crops of Wheat, Rye, and Barley, may be had in the successive Seasons without fallow; so that Land would by this Means be cultivated to the highest Advantage, and one Acre in 300 would be sufficient to produce Hemp and Flax enough for all the Purposes desired.

VII. If therefore an additional Duty was to be laid upon all foreign imported Linen, and applied as a Bounty to encourage the Growth of Hemp and Flax, it would increase our Trade, add to the Revenue, improve our Land, revive our Manufactures, and furnish Employment to innumerable Families.

April 13, 1767.

J. | G E E.

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